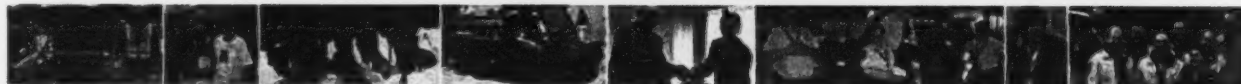


# RoadRunner



**BRITISH  
COLUMBIA**  
The Best Place on Earth

Ministry of Transportation **Staff Newsletter**

May 2008

## Deputy Minister Awards

**This spring the fifth annual Deputy Minister's Recognition Awards were held in Kamloops, Victoria and Prince George.**

There were over 200 employees who were nominated by their peers for their exceptional contributions to the Ministry of Transportation. The nomination committee, Nancy Merston, Greg Gilks, Tracy Cooper and Murray Tekano had the difficult and rewarding task of choosing the final award winners.

This year an exceptional number of teams received awards. Teams such as the Contract Best Practices Review team and the BC Webcam team are comprised of members from every Region.

There was a record number of ministry staff and family members that attended the ceremonies to support recipients and meet their Deputy Minister and our new Assistant Deputy Minister Mike Proudfoot.

Congratulations to all staff, teams and individuals that received awards in recognition of their outstanding effort and contributions to the Ministry and the public.

For a list of all award recipients and photos go to:

<http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/Content/RecognitionAward/recognitionaward.asp> ♦



John Dyble and Mike Proudfoot pose with Bill Rose (middle) who received an award in Prince George for recognition of his excellent leadership of the Northern Region Project Management Team.



Mike Proudfoot, Peter Milburn and John Dyble with winners Vicki Willow, Cathy Grossmith, Jenny Pleice, Veena Sundher, Cathy Stone, Greg Matisz, Diane Marson, Tina Strachan receive an award in Victoria in appreciation of their exceptional work on the Contract Best Practices Review.

*continued on page 3...*

## Editor's Note

Spring is in the air – at least in Victoria it is. It's hard to believe we are already halfway through 2008.

While Nancy McLeod is off in China working at the British Columbia Pavilion in Beijing, I have had the opportunity to be the editor of the RoadRunner. Not only I am new to the RoadRunner but I am also on a temporary assignment with the ministry. I can't think of a better way to get to know the people, places, regions and projects that make up the Ministry of Transportation. As my inbox began to burst with submissions for the newsletter, and as I read each one, I couldn't believe how much everyone loves working for this ministry and sharing their stories. So, thank you for inviting me into your stories.

For this issue I was overwhelmed by the large focus on 'being green'. It was great to see what people were doing in the



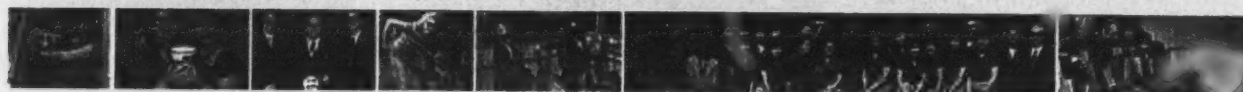
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Also in this issue is a look at the many recognition events over the past couple of months. The Deputy Minister Awards were presented throughout March and April as well as the Dan Doyle Leadership Award.

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Bailey Blencowe, Editor

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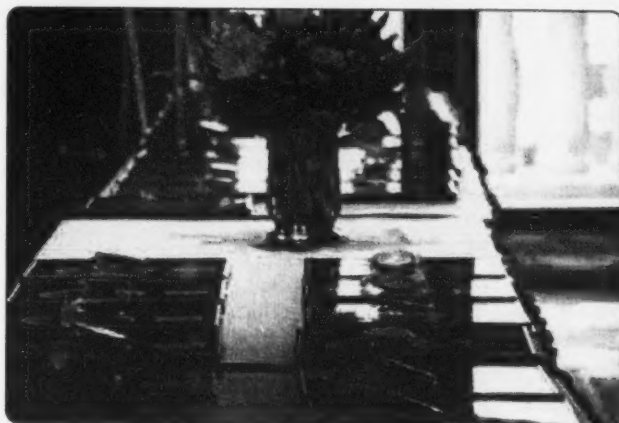


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Ministry of  
Transportation

## Deputy Minister Awards *continued from front cover*



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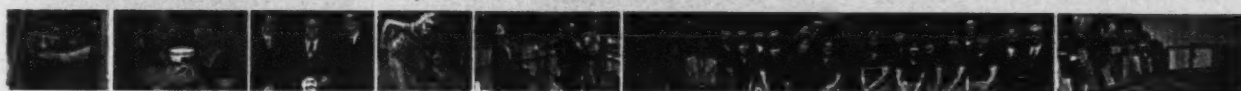
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# Dan Doyle Leadership Award

Submitted by Valerie L. Fabick, Regional Manager Project Delivery

**The Dan Doyle Leadership award** was created in 2005 to recognize the remarkable leadership demonstrated by Dan Doyle during his more than 36 years with the Ministry.

Dan began his tenure as an Engineer in Training and rose through the ranks finishing his MoT career as Deputy Minister. Dan was recognized as a true leader and the award commemorates his great contributions in this area.

The award is presented annually to an individual, either a current or recent past Ministry of Transportation employee, who best demonstrates the attributes of a great leader. Last year was the second year for the award and Dirk Nyland our Chief Engineer was the recipient.

A call for nominations was distributed in October of last year and again there were some fantastic nominations from all over the province. Each nominee truly demonstrates what it means to be a great leader and each of them should be proud to have been recognized by their peers in this way. The nominees for this year's award were:

**Rick Blixrud** – Fort George District  
**Ron Marshall** – Fort George District  
**Bill Smith** – Okanagan Shuswap District  
**Murray Tekano** – Kicking Horse Canyon Project  
**Marilyn Wargo** – Victoria

A panel consisting of six staff representatives from three regions reviewed the submissions and selected a recipient. Our thanks go to Joyce Pool and Janice Stevens from Region 1, Norm Parkes and Maree Johnston from Region 2 and Don Ramsay and Bob Corder from Region 3 for assisting us in this year's award.

Having seen the wonderful and heartfelt nominations I know that the panel's task was a difficult one. In the end one candidate stood out as a truly great leader. We are proud to say that this year's recipient is Marilyn Wargo our Director of the Human Resources Branch in Victoria.

Marilyn has worked for the Ministry of Transportation since 1988. Her initial position was the Manager, Finance and Administration for the HR Branch then as HR Advisor, HR Operations Manager and finally as Director.

Marilyn has phenomenal people skills and has developed strong working relationships with many individuals throughout the organization. She believes in passing on her knowledge and mentoring her own staff and others from across the Ministry.

Although most people don't realize it, almost everyone in the Ministry has been touched positively by her efforts. She has worked tirelessly to make this a better place to work. She actively promotes recognition and career development, championing programs such as the Technical Entry Level Program, Management Development Program and Trading Places.

A long list of people from many levels of government and private industry sent testimonials as part of the nomination submission. It was clear that her gift of leadership has very quietly made a difference in many lives.

To quote Paul Squires. "Marilyn embodies the love that she has for the MoT family each and every day at the office, and she carries herself with a balance of wit, charm, and professionalism that makes everyone around her a better public servant. Marilyn empowers others to make solid, research-based decisions on their own, and she enthusiastically connects the vision of this ministry to the hard-working people that work for it around the province."

The award was presented to Marilyn by Dan Doyle in a surprise ceremony in Victoria on April 3, 2008. The event was very well attended by her colleagues and friends as well as her husband Cary Corbeil, her brother Raymond Wargo and close friends Pat Child and Shawn O'Connor. Marilyn was truly appreciative of this well deserved award.

Marilyn thanks so much for all of the great things that you do and congratulations on being this year's recipient. ♦



Marilyn Wargo with Dan Doyle.

# ADM Kathie Miller visits Vancouver to present awards

Submitted by JoAnn Clar, Executive Assistant

**On January 2008 Assistant Deputy Minister, Kathie Miller** went to Vancouver to present Long Term Service Awards to recipients of the Passenger Transportation Branch who were not able to make the ceremonies in the fall of 2007. Recipients Sue Sun and Jeanette Wong were awarded.

Sue Sun has been with government since 1982. She started in the finance area with Corrections branch 3 years ago, then off to the Coroners branch for 5 years. Next was a five year stint with the Howe Sound office of Highways, before coming to Motor Carrier/ Passenger Transportation in 1997. Sue has always worked in finance. Sue is a home body, loves family life, but lives for vacation. Travel of any kind is high on her list. Sue is a wonderful member of the team; we all value her hard work!



Assistant Deputy Minister, Kathie Miller with Sue Sun.

Jeanette Wong started with government in 1982 as a customer service rep in the G.A.'s office. She came to Motor Carrier/ Passenger Transportation in 1997 and in 2001 started as a Registration Officer. Jeannette is family oriented and enjoys early morning breakfasts with co-workers. She also likes to go on cruises during her many weeks of vacation. Jeanette is a great wealth of knowledge in the branch.

There was also a Thank you to the Acting Director, Dawn Major for doing a fantastic job holding the fort while Tom Greene was on leave. Kathie Miller presented Dawn with a certificate of thanks as well as a heartfelt thank you went to Louis Swan and Barbara Webster for their work on the Appealed Administrative Penalty Decision. ♦



Assistant Deputy Minister, Kathie Miller with Jeanette Wong.



Assistant Deputy Minister, Kathie Miller with Dawn Major.



# Time Capsule

Submitted by Audrie Henry, District Clerk

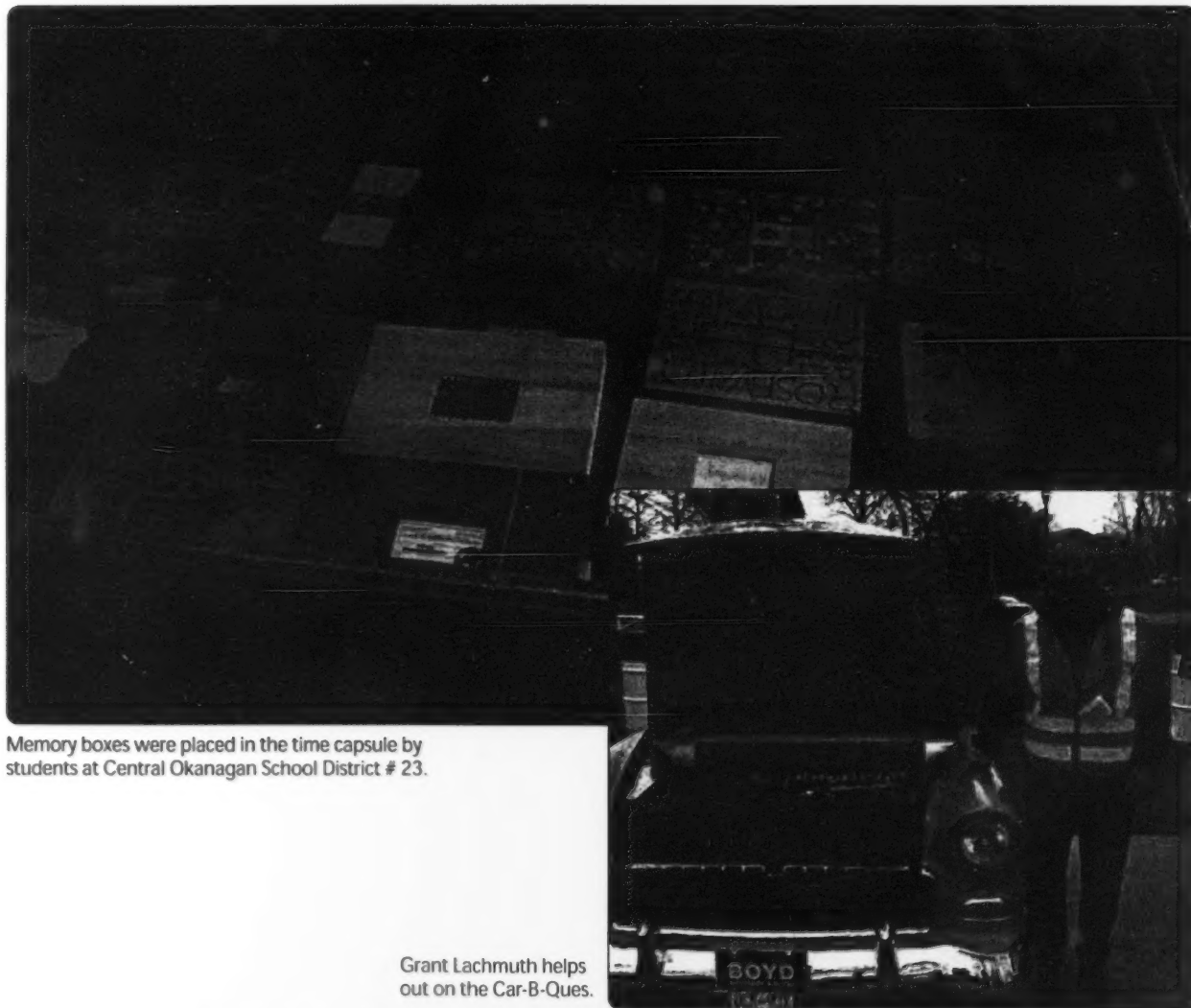
**On Friday, April 4, 2008,** Minister Falcon was in Kelowna to attend the "Time Capsule" event for the William R. Bennett Bridge. A time capsule is a container specially made to hold memorable items from present day. The time capsule will remain on the William R. Bennett Bridge until 2035 when the ownership of the bridge is handed back to the Province.

Approximately 75 students from Central Okanagan School District 23 came to City Park to place their wooden "memory boxes" into the time capsule. The time capsule was designed and fabricated by students at the Okanagan University College Welding Department.

After a few words by special guests, students were called upon by Mayor Sharon Shepherd to place their memory boxes into the time capsule. The students were then presented with a gift bag and a framed certificate to hang in their school to show that they participated in the event.

Following the event, all those who were in attendance were treated to a BBQ lunch prepared by the Boyd Autobody Crew who generously donated their "Car-B-Ques" and time.

Thank you to Minister Falcon, Mayor Shepherd, Westbank First Nation, Okanagan University College, School District 23, MLAs Rick Thorpe and Al Horning, the William R. Bennett Bridge Team, and Ministry of Transportation and other support services staff for making this event a huge success! Also a special thank you to Josie Jones from Properties & Business Management at MOT headquarters for coming up with the idea of the time capsule! ♦



Memory boxes were placed in the time capsule by students at Central Okanagan School District # 23.

Grant Lachmuth helps out on the Car-B-Ques.



## Come Ride with Us... on the Rapid Transit Network!

Submitted by Robyn Cooper, Transit Analyst

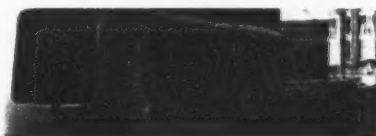
In the last issue of the *Road Runner*, we introduced you to the newly announced Provincial Transit Plan, a \$14 billion dollar investment in the future of transit in British Columbia. The plan's goals are to reduce transportation greenhouse gas emissions by 4.7 million tonnes cumulatively and to double transit ridership by 2020.

One of the keys to the success of the Provincial Transit Plan will be to further develop and expand the rapid transit network in the Metro Vancouver area. As more than half of the people living in British Columbia live in the Metro Vancouver area. That's over 2 million people (nearly 3 million by 2020!), and that's a big opportunity to make some real changes that will benefit the entire province.

For many people, the image of SkyTrain has come to define rail rapid transit in the Metro Vancouver area. The SkyTrain

systems (the Expo Line and the Millennium Line) are actually a form of Advanced Light Rail Technology, or ALRT. ALRT is emissions-free, automated and grade-separated, on tracks above, below or segregated from the street. Over 40 million trips were taken on the SkyTrain in 2006, which is a pretty clear indicator that it's a technology that people want to use.

To build on the success of the Expo and Millennium Lines, the Provincial Transit Plan calls for \$10.3 billion to be spent on a rapid transit network that will lessen the burden on roads and highways and

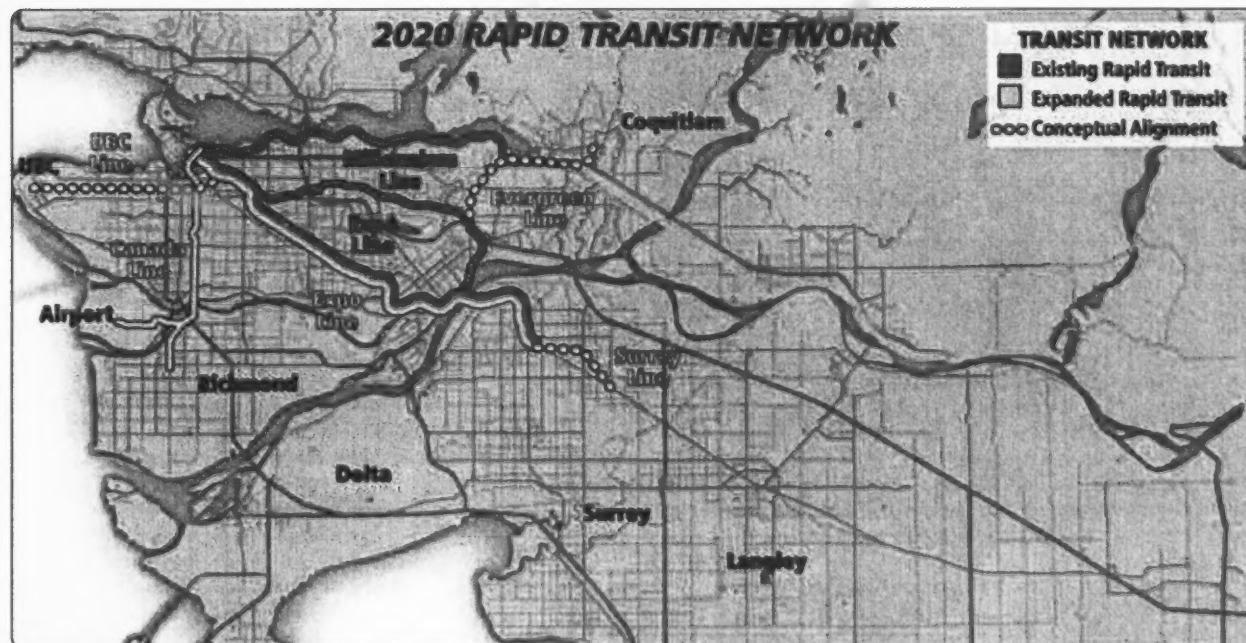


### Past Articles:

1. The Provincial Transit Plan  
March 2008

on the environment by reaching into densely populated corridors and connecting more people to where they want to be. In 2009, major station improvements along the Expo Line and a planned doubling of the line's capacity by adding new rail cars will begin. The 19 km-long Canada Line, which will connect downtown Vancouver to the Vancouver International Airport and Richmond, is on schedule to open in

*continues on the next page...*



# Come Ride with Us... on the Rapid Transit Network! *continued from page 7*

the fall of 2009. You might also have read about the recent announcement of the Evergreen Line, which will connect Coquitlam Centre to the Lougheed Town Centre station via Port Moody. That project, for which the Province has pledged over \$400 million, is expected to be completed by 2014. In the longer term, rapid transit lines are expected to be built by 2020 to connect Broadway Station to the University of British Columbia and a 6 km-long extension of the Expo Line will take customers into Surrey.

In order to extend the reach of rapid transit even further and to enable transit use by even more customers, the Provincial Transit Plan also calls for a \$1.2 billion investment in a rapid bus network called RapidBus BC. The idea is to have dedicated point-to-point routes that will connect to outlying areas where there isn't currently enough density to support rail rapid transit, but where conventional bus services can't meet demand. A typical conventional 'mixed traffic' bus has a peak-hour capacity of about 1,000-3,000 people, compared to about 2,000-10,000 on a rapid bus system running in a dedicated lane. In the Metro Vancouver area, seven RapidBus BC lines will connect customers to the rail rapid transit network (there are also plans for a rapid

bus line in Kelowna and one in Victoria), which will make transit an option for people in rapidly growing places like Langley, Delta and Surrey. The details are still being hammered out, so stay tuned for more information on just what exactly RapidBus BC is going to look like.

Meeting the goals of the Provincial Transit Plan requires giving people more options when it comes to making transportation choices. Building a safe, reliable and fully accessible rapid transit network that connects a great deal of people to where they live, work and play delivers that choice. ♦



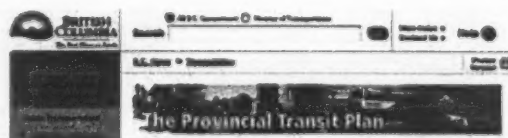
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ALRT	<input type="checkbox"/>	Go	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rail	<input type="checkbox"/>
BC	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hybrid	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rapid	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bike	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hydrogen	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rider	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bus	<input type="checkbox"/>	Line	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Map	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trip	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evergreen	<input type="checkbox"/>	Need	<input type="checkbox"/>	Walk	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oil	<input type="checkbox"/>		

You can use a mirror to see the cryptic answer.

The Best Place on Earth

To learn more about the Provincial Transit Plan, go to:  
[http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/Transit\\_Plan/index.html](http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/Transit_Plan/index.html)





# VIP and Conference Action Begins in Beijing

Submitted by Nancy McLeod, VIP Host, BC Canada Pavilion

**VIP visits and an education conference** marked the BC Canada Pavilion's opening day, May 5.

Locals and staff at the British Columbia Canada Pavilion were awed by the arrival of national celebrity Dashan. Dashan (meaning Big Mountain) is Canadian Mark Rowswell, who arrived in China about 20 years ago. His command of Mandarin surpasses that of many resident Chinese scholars and has led to a career performing traditional Chinese comedy, hosting television shows and language series, and appearing in the Chinese New Year's extravaganza on the national television station.

My fellow Ministry of Transportation colleague, Grant Lachmuth, welcomed Dashan to the pavilion, along with Bette Sterling and Jane Burns of the BC Olympic Secretariat. Grant went on to give Dashan a guided tour of the pavilion, which conveys the economy, culture and lifestyle of our province.

Dashan also got a look at his own image in the pavilion. His photo is displayed close to that of Dr. Norman Bethune – another Canadian revered in China, but little known in his own country.

Once he toured the exhibit, Dashan went to the pavilion's second floor, where the Study in Canada conference was underway. Although his visit had not been announced and as he casually walked by the proceedings, there were startled whispers of "Dashan!"

A Chinese-Canadian colleague provided some context to the power of Dashan's popularity and the stir he caused. She explained that with 1.3 billion people living in China, celebrity sightings are extremely rare.

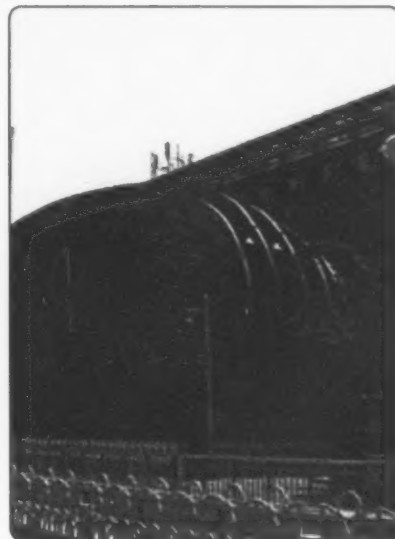
Dashan's relative anonymity in the country of his birth may soon change. As attaché to the Canadian team at this summer's Olympics in Beijing, he'll be leading Canada's Olympic team at the opening ceremonies. He will also guide the delegation through cultural and language differences in China.

The pavilion's other highly noteworthy visitor on opening day was Canadian Ambassador to China Robert Wright. When the diplomat's car pulled up, staff at the Beijing Planning Exhibition Hall literally rocketed from their posts to take on special VIP duties.

This very successful day was what our team had been working toward since completing training in Vancouver. As anticipated, nothing could really prepare us for all the logistics of getting set up in a foreign country. However, our group is highly committed and optimistic. We've responded with flexibility (flexibility was mentioned several times in the Expression of Interest) in setting up our space, equipment and procedures to ensure a quality experience for our guests and a healthy workplace for staff.



Host Services Team Leader Grant Lachmuth, VIP Host Nancy McLeod, Highways ADM Mike Proudfoot and Properties and Business Management Branch Executive Director Sandra Carroll consult their fortune cookies, in April, before Grant and Nancy leave for their temporary assignments in Beijing. Photo by Nancy Dolan.



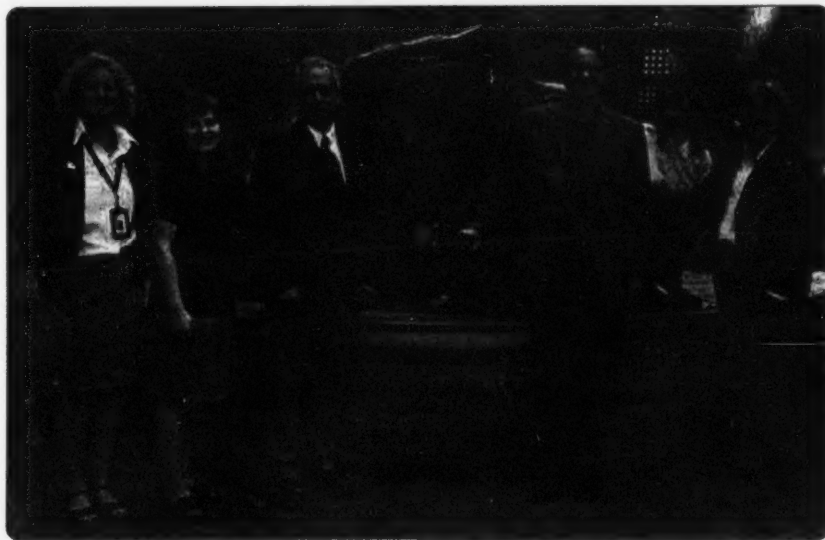
British Columbia Canada Pavilion.

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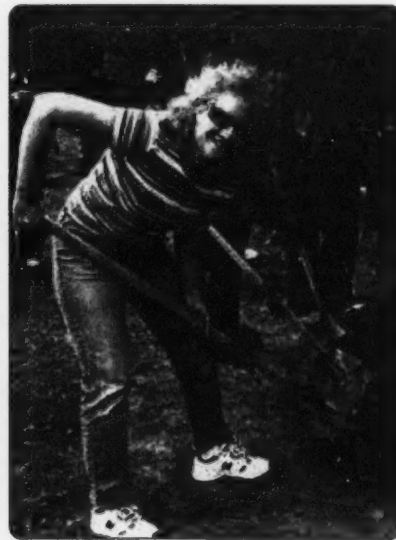
## VIP and Conference Action Begins in Beijing *continued from page 9*

Judging by our first few days at the BC Canada Pavilion, we can anticipate more VIP visits, and plenty of trade connections made at about 30 business conferences. We also expect many, many more visitors who just might be drawn to the pavilion by our contest to dine with Dashan!

Stay tuned for the next edition of Road Runner, when our ministry's third pavilion participant, Pat Egan, steps into his role, at the height of the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games. ♦



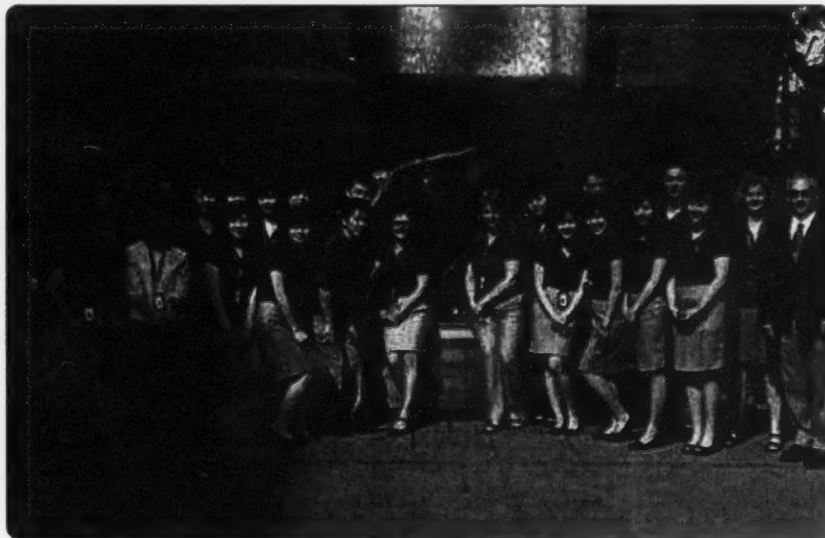
Nancy McLeod, Julie Gavincole (Public Affairs Bureau), Grant Lachmuth, Dashan, and Jane Burnes and Bette Sterling (BC Olympic and Paralympic Secretariat) with the 5,000 kg sculpture of B.C. jade outside the pavilion.



Working, as an arborist was the last thing I would have predicted for myself. Still, I dug in and helped plant a tree at Beijing's Olympic Green to leave a small legacy from our group.



Host Services Team Leader Grant Lachmuth tells Dashan about the 500-year-old Spirit Tree, which fell in Stanley Park and is recreated here.



The first installment of Beijing bound participants pose outside the pavilion.

# Week Long Avalanche Course: A Huge Success

Submitted by Johann Slam, District Avalanche Technician, Bear Pass Snow Avalanche Program

**Ministry of Transportation's Bear Pass Snow Avalanche Program** hosted an Advanced Canadian Avalanche Rescue Dog Association Course in and around the mountains of Stewart B.C. from March 31st to April 4th. There were 7 dog teams from Yukon, Alberta and British Columbia that attended the 4 day course. The course focused on complex skills development for both the handlers and dogs. The Stewart area provided a perfect setting with an extensive mountain environment, an abundant snowpack, vast glaciated terrain and the remnants of big avalanches throughout the Bear Pass Program's avalanche area.

Several of the dog teams flew from Vancouver to Terrace on the RCMP plane, while others drove the usual long distances to get to Stewart. Cpl. Richard Gingras, a RCMP Dog Handler who lives in Squamish attended the course as a validator to ensure all teams were working at a high level as well as lending his training expertise. As well, the International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations (IFMGA) Mountain Guide, Christoph Dietzfelbinger was hired to provide technical mountain skills and guidance throughout the course. The Bear Pass Avalanche Crew provided the local knowledge and ensured that everything ran smoothly.

The first day was a quick overview of course objectives and a tour of the town of Stewart. The group was also shown accommodations which housed themselves as well as the dogs. Day 2 began with a group session that covered the weather forecast along with an avalanche stability assessment. The remainder of the day was spent on the Bear Glacier working on rope skills, glacier travel, rescue techniques and dog searches in glaciated terrain. Sunscreen and lots of memory space for the cameras were used throughout the day. For day 3 the group was fortunate enough to have the local heli-ski company, Last Frontier Heli-Skiing provide a helicopter drop with their Bell 205 Helicopter. The group that had their dogs were dropped high in the mountains with the objectives of safe travel and route-finding the way into Alaska. Once Alaska was found it was a challenging ski down to the famous Granduc Mine Road. The group was then picked up by the crew at the end of the day. A great day was had by all with over 2000m of excellent skiing conditions.

A week before the course, a large size 4 avalanche occurred within the Mt. Rainey avalanche area. A size 4 avalanche has the potential to destroy a railway car, large truck, several buildings or a forest area of 4 hectares. The group decided that on day 4 that it would be a unique opportunity to train and test the dogs by working such a large avalanche deposit. Everyone had to cross the frigid glacier fed Bear River to the deposit where a total of 27 scented articles were hidden to challenge the dogs. All the articles were found and all 7 dogs successfully worked together on this huge avalanche deposit.

On the final day everyone packed up their things and prepared to head home, but a trip to Stewart for any avalanche folk would not be complete without a visit

and tour of the Ministry's world renowned Bear Pass Avalanche Program. Participants stopped by the office to see how the crew normally start their day and then proceeded with a road tour to view the 72 avalanche paths that affect 45 kms of highway. A final stop was made at the building that houses the Program's 105mm Howitzer used for avalanche control. At the end of the tour everyone said goodbye and commented that they will be back soon.

The week was a huge success, a big thank you to all the people involved. ♦



The group takes a break on Silverado Slide path 2.0, after working a training and validation session.

Left to Right: Tania Halik Top Right: Kirstie Simpson and Bodach Bottom Right: Darrel Lewko and Avie, Christoph Dietzfelbinger Bottom Middle: Steve Morrison and Mojo Top Middle: Jennifer Coulter and Farley, Shelly Hicks and Kelsey, Kyle Hale and Wisar.



# Northern Region "Face Lift": Regional Office Receives Renovations

Submitted by Bob Corder, Regional Manager Corporate Services

**The Northern Regional Office and the Fort George District Office** are undergoing a face lift while the Engineering staff compliment expands and TELP staff train up to succeed retiring and promoting employees in the Northern Region.

In order to accommodate this growing staff complement, the Fort George District Office is relocating from the second floor of the Regional/District Office building in Prince George to the third floor. While construction is underway to accommodate that move, improvements to the second floor are underway to allow for expansion of the Regional Office. Construction of the third floor improvements are nearly complete and staff in the Fort George District are expecting to relocate from the second floor near the end of April. The District Office relocation is being led by Laura Nordquist, the Fort George District Services Manager.

Maria Braden, the Northern Region's Manager of Financial and IT Services is leading the initiative. She is the project manager for the improvements to the second floor Regional Office which is planned for completion by June 15th in 3 phases. Phase 1 and phase 2, which included the block planning phase, the construction of 3 new offices and a new meeting room have now been complete. Phase 3, which includes detailed planning

and improvements for the space currently occupied by the District Office is underway. One of the most difficult tasks one will ever manage is a change to facility layouts because of the operational and personal complexities associated with such a project. Maria has carefully planned out

this project. She has involved all staff in the Regional Office while considering both operational and personal staff needs. Maria deserves a great deal of credit for the results she has managed to date and the plan she has in place for completion of the work. ♦



Maria Braden performs the ribbon cutting to signify the completion of phase 2 of the renovation project. She is accompanied by Deputy Minister John Dyble, Assistant Deputy Minister Mike Proudfoot, Regional Director Shanna Mason (left), Regional Manager, Engineering Gord Wagner (middle-left), Regional Manager, Project Delivery Bill Rose (middle-right) and Regional Manager, Corporate and Operational Services Bob Corder (right).

## Mission Accomplished: Regional Financial Services Staff Close Books for 2007/08

Submitted by Bob Corder, Regional Manager, Corporate and Operational Services

**The Northern Regional Financial Services** staff provides a valuable and meaningful contribution to the successful delivery of the Northern Region's goals and objectives every day. However, once again this small but very talented group of individuals came through for the Region with a very successful "closing of the 2007/08 books".

Staff throughout the Northern Region take a great deal of pride in the quality of work that they deliver on our Highways and Bridges as well as being fiscally accountable. Every day and every year-end the Regional Financial Services group is led by Maria Braden, Manager of Financial and IT Services, comes through with a critical contribution to the fiscal success of the Northern region and this year was no exception. Along with the region's four District Services Managers, Janet Colussi in Terrace, Libby Dorey in Smithers, Laura Nordquist in Prince George and Jacki Clark in Fort St. John, the Regional Financial Services group

are the unsung heroes in the region when it comes to being fiscally accountable.

Over the past fiscal year it has been very enjoyable to work with the Region's Financial Services staff and was concluded with a very strong and focussed effort in leading our region to a highly successful "closing of the 2007/08 books". Throughout the year this group consistently exhibits a professional and very highly skilled work ethic and focuses on providing a high quality service to their customers. Over the 2007/08 year-end timeframe, they continued that same effort against some tight deadlines and, although they didn't display it, under some significant pressure.

*continues on the next page...*

## Regional Financial Services Staff Close Books for 2007/08 *continued from page 12*

Congratulations and thank-you to Maria Braden, Manager, Financial and IT Services, Deanna Ramsey, Regional Financial Officer, Crystal MacLean, Regional Financial Clerk, Mary Laing, Regional Contract Administrator and Nicole Folk, Regional Financial Analyst. ♦



(from left to right) Maria Braden, Deanna Ramsey, Crystal MacLean, Mary Laing, Nicole Folk and Bob Corder.

## Engineering ExCITEment in Victoria

Submitted by Jon Conquist, Planning & Programming Branch

**The Canadian Institute of Transportation Engineers (CITE)** recently held its 2008 Annual Conference at the Victoria Conference Centre. Attendees and presenters came from across Canada, USA, and Australia. MoT was a sponsor, and staff played a leading role.

The technical program was put together by Ed Miska in his role as VP, Programs of the CITE Vancouver Island section. Ed's day job is Section Head, Traffic, Electrical, Highway Safety, and Geometric Standards, Engineering Branch (he needs oversized business cards for that title). Great job herding all those cats, Ed.

Minister Kevin Falcon kicked off the conference with his trademark enthusiasm about our highway projects. Bev Propp, Dale Wood, Jennifer Hardy and Karmjeet

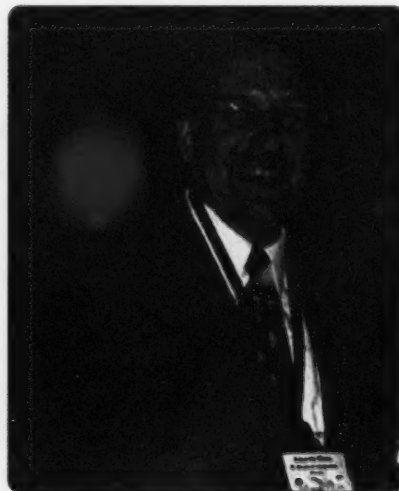
Singh Deogan registered and generally helped the attendees. Jerry Froese presented the holistic roundabout design lessons that he and Darwin Tyacke have learned. Joy Sengupta and Loris Tommasel co-presented on the impressive Highway 1 median cable barrier (which has absorbed ten crashes so far, including a semi-trailer, with no injuries!) and Jon Conquist presented on changes to our site impact analysis requirements manual, used in development approvals work. Barbara Thomas, Patrick Livolsi, Janelle Yardley,

Nathan Popp, Simon Leung, Joy Sengupta and Jon Conquist were session moderators. It was good to see many of our Engineers in Training there as well.

These kinds of events are great for internal networking and meeting consultants and other transportation agency staff, while getting useful ideas that help us to manage the provincial highway system better. Way to go MoT, for helping to make this conference a success. ♦



Dale Woods and Richard Voyer.



Ed Miska.

# Border Infrastructure Program plays vital role in Queensborough Bridge Interchange

Submitted by Suzanne Fitzpatrick, Administrative Assistant

The reconstruction of the Queensborough Bridge Interchange in New Westminster is a vital part of the Border Infrastructure Program's (BIP) scope to improve the flow of pedestrian, cyclist and motor vehicle safely on the bridge.

The new cycling and pedestrian overpass in the north-west quadrant of the interchange provides improved access to the 22nd Street SkyTrain station and access to the Trans-Canada Trail.

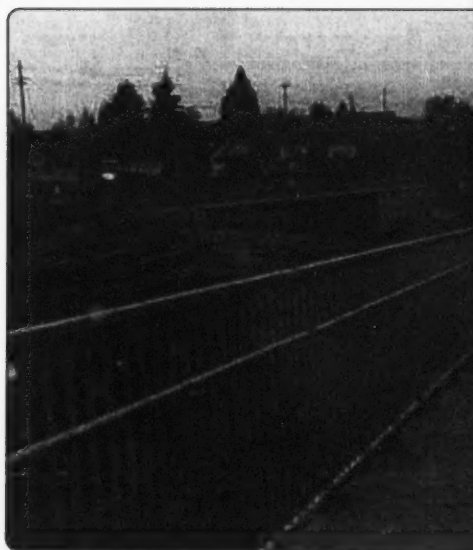
The BIP Program has a new shared-use sidewalk on the south side of Marine/Stewardson Way providing connectivity through the interchange to the Trans-Canada Trail and the New Westminster Quay area. ♦



Above: Newly completed Queensborough Bridge Pedestrian Overpass.

Right: The installation of the bicycle railing along the Queensborough Bridge West Side.

Bottom: Wider, protected shared-use sidewalks on both sides of the Queensborough Bridge are now complete.





# EAF Employee Advisory Forum

## Oil and Gas Commission Benefits from EAF Contributions

Submitted by Susan Ingram, Manager of Corporate Performance

**Last November**, the Oil and Gas Commission's (OGC) Human Resources Director Laura Jane (LJ) Lawson and Human Resources Manager Christine Richards, attended the Employee Advisory Forum meeting in Kelowna.

The OGC had just undertaken its first Work Environment Survey. LJ and Christine were interested in the "unpacking" (delivery of results) the Ministry of Transportation had been doing, and how the Employee Advisory Forum used the data to target areas for change. Based on what LJ saw and heard at the conference and her discussions with Lee Herrin from BC Stats, she thought this approach would be beneficial to her organization. So, LJ approached our ministry to second me to the Oil and Gas Commission for three months to "unpack" their survey results with all their employees and provide a final report to their Executive.

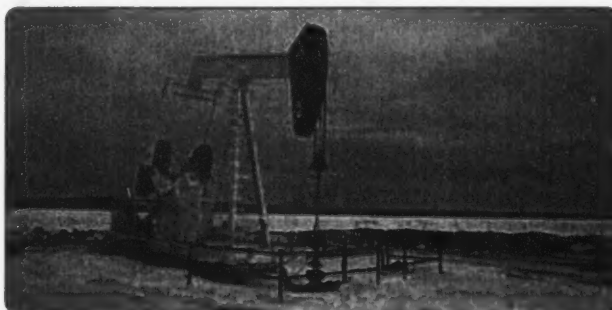
Beginning in January, I facilitated nine unpacking sessions at OGC. I did the first session with OGC Executive, then I conducted another six sessions in Fort St. John and two in Victoria. The purpose of the sessions was threefold: 1) to help OGC employees understand the purpose and importance of the survey 2) to provide OGC employees with a better grasp of the key drivers behind the survey questions and 3) to empower staff to provide input for improvements. To inform OGC employees about the role and achievements of our ministry's Employee Advisory Forum, EAF Communications Team Leader Dawn Braithwaite spoke at the Fort St. John sessions. Another EAF member, Jaswinder Mann, presented in Victoria.

OGC staff response was extremely positive at all the sessions, and employees expressed strong interest in our ministry's EAF. This included several positive comments from OGC staff such as, "We look forward to the possibility of something similar to your forum being implemented within the Commission."

When I reflect back, the overall experience with the OGC was beneficial to me in so many ways. It gave me the opportunity to share the accomplishments that our ministry has achieved with the Work Environment Survey. It also made me realize that through the support and commitment of our Executive and the dedication of each and every forum member, we have a successful and effective EAF that contributes to making this ministry a great place to work. So, on behalf of our forum, I thank you.

Over the years, our ministry has worked hard on improving recognition. Being approached by the OGC to work with their staff in the capacity that I did, was true recognition for my five years of work in employee engagement.

Other than experiencing weather of -50 degrees and warming trends of -28 degrees, if anyone has an opportunity to share their expertise with another agency, I would highly recommend this type of opportunity. In closing, I would like to thank Marilyn Wargo, Lori Wiedeman, Grant Lachmuth, Julian Malinsky and everyone else who supported me on my secondment. Thanks also, to all forum members who pitched in to ensure the EAF continued to run smoothly in my absence.



Susan Ingram's secondment with the Oil and Gas Commission took her to northeastern B.C. for three months.

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## Ministry of Transportation

### Staffing for the Future

Submitted by Brian Taylor, Area Manager Bridges

**As Public Servants**, we hear a lot about Merit and Meritorious Processes as they relate to staffing practices, but have you ever taken a moment to truly think about what that means? How do the

principles of merit assist hiring managers in ensuring out staff practices are done in a fair and transparent way?

The feedback you provided in previous years employee engagement (Work Environment) surveys has shown us that these are important questions that need to be answered. The newly established EAF Staffing Practice Team "Staffing for the Future" will be investigating these very questions and more, but we need your help. Please give some thought to the Ministry's current staffing practices, what is most important to you, what do you think works well, and any other areas that you would like to see addressed.

A short survey will go out soon to a random sampling of staff who will also be invited to participate in one-hour focus groups. If you receive one, please make yourself heard. Without your input we will not be able to establish a clear direction to address your concerns and improve current staffing practices. Once all of the responses are received, we are quite confident that we'll have some excellent ideas to get us off and running, and working for you! ♦

### Contest

Even if you don't receive a survey, you can still give us some of your thoughts by participating in this contest. In your own words, tell us what merit means to you and how you would define a meritorious process. Send your response to this question to Brian Taylor at [BrianM.Taylor@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BrianM.Taylor@gov.bc.ca) by June 15, 2008 for a chance to win a fabulous prize.

Check the EAF website for regular updates: [http://gwww.th.gov.bc.ca/aef/home\\_intra.asp](http://gwww.th.gov.bc.ca/aef/home_intra.asp)

### Submit your stories and photos:

If you want to submit stories and photos send your word files and photos to: [RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca](mailto:RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca)



# GETTING THERE GREEN

A PACIFIC LEADER IN SUSTAINABILITY

BC MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION

## Improving Air Quality in Prince George

Submitted by Rob Wiebe, Project Information Officer

**Someone came to my office one day and made me an offer I couldn't refuse.** They wanted my little, fuel efficient car for pretty much the same reason I had been driving it all these years – it was easy on gas! I did not even want to sell it, but with an exchange of cash for keys, the stroke of a pen and a handshake, I was suddenly without wheels! Now what?

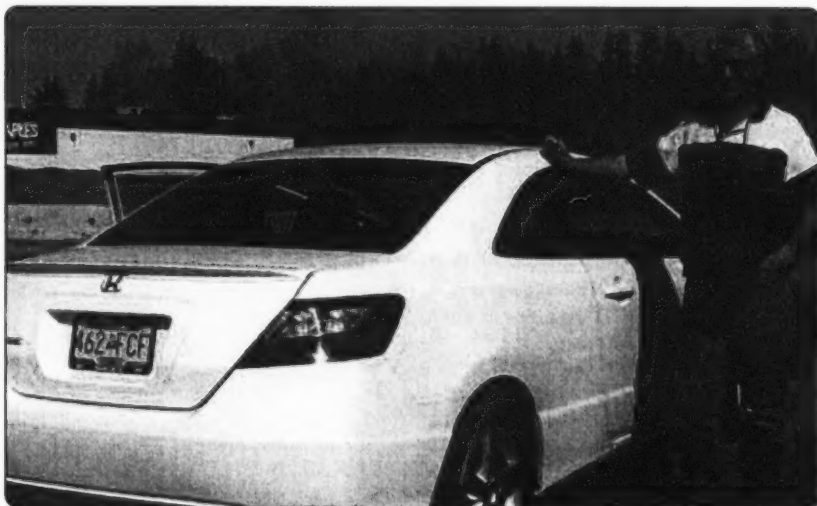
I began the search for a new vehicle. I wanted something small, but not too small! Over the course of the next two weeks, I researched and test drove a total of five compact cars that I thought would fit the bill.

In the end, I chose the Honda Civic EXL coupe a sporty, but practical car. It was a brand I was intimately familiar with, and it was the only one of the vehicles I tested that qualified for "eco credits." The fuel efficiency for this particular vehicle (6.1-6.5 L/100km) qualifies for the Federal EcoAuto Rebate Program. This program provides a federal rebate of \$1000 plus an equal point-of-sale reduction in the Provincial Sales Tax which in essence, was a two thousand dollar saving!

With this latest purchase, I feel that I have made a responsible choice that allows me to reduce my carbon footprint and become a part of the solution.

Submitted by Deanna Ramsey,  
Regional Financial Officer

In April, 2008 Deanna Ramsey, Regional Financial Officer from Prince George traded in her car as well to reduce her carbon footprint. Deanna traded in her Ford Mustang GT Convertible for the more fuel efficient Hyundai Tiburon. She is now emitting 528 less CO<sub>2</sub> per year. Not to mention the savings in fuel expenses!



Ron Wiebe poses next to his new Eco-friendly Honda Civic.



Deanna is reducing her carbon footprint with her new Tiburon.

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# The Ultimate Green Team Challenge: First stop, Kamloops

Submitted by Maggie Malek, Co-op student, Climate Action Program

**While scouring B.C. for spontaneously created Green Teams, I was lucky enough to find a group of 10 Ministry of Transportation staff at the Thompson-Nicola district office in Kamloops who are all going green for climate change.**

Inspired by the Climate Action initiatives and by their own environmentally-friendly activities from home, this green team from Kamloops is bringing environmental awareness from the home into the office.

With a small budget and a lot of drive, they have made an effort to encourage and expand their internal recycling program by adding a paper recycling bin to every desk in their office. In the staff lounge, they have got recycling bins for cans & bottles, assorted mixed plastics, tin cans, and glass. Once the bins are full a volunteer returns the items to the local recycling depot, just a short trip away. In addition to recycling, they have set up a compost bin behind their new building. They hope to eventually donate the soil to a local community garden.

In the future, they would like to develop a plan to encourage staff to use public transportation, to introduce recycled paper, to create a more secure storage space for bikes, and to ensure wise energy use by making sure monitors and lights are turned off when not in use.

Way to go green team!



Maggie sets out to find Green Teams.



Rob Purdy, Tracy LeClair and Elaine Shibata fill up the compost bin located in the back of their building. They hope to donate the soil to a local community garden.

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## Success at the Chili Cook-Off and Bowl Auction in Kamloops B.C.

Submitted by Lawrence Barichello, Administrative Assistant

**The Kamloops Occupational Health & Safety Committee** hosted their 3rd Annual Chili Cook-off and Bowl Auction on Tuesday February 26th.

In previous years funding has been donated to local Cancer Care. This year's participants voted to donate proceeds to PESCF and the Royal Inland Hospital Foundation, for medical equipment and education.

In the true sense of tradition, Deborah Newby handled the job of announcing the auction items while Tracy Wynnyk played the role of Vanna White hamming up the presentations of each precious vessel.

Silent auction bidders raised the stakes through proxies deepening the mystery and excitement. When the final hammer fell, the room was a buzz and a total of \$1,495 had been raised.



Tracy Wynnyk (left) and Deborah Newby (right) show off a chilli bowl auction item.

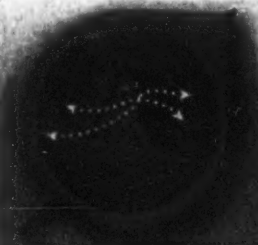
## A Rewarding Ride for Kelowna Car-Poolers

Submitted by Crystal Chenier, Secretary, Finance and Administration

On March 17th 2008, the Kamloops and Kelowna area celebrated Ride-Share week with a draw sponsored by the City of Kelowna. The prize was a \$250 gift card to Future Shop and a Kamloops mug. Tom Freeman, who has been carpooling with Malcolm Makavey and Crystal Chenier for the past 2 years, was the winner of the Ride-Share draw. It was a very rewarding event for the dedicated staff that participate in the Ride-Share program. Tom and his Ride-Share partners even made the 5 'clock news! Way to go team!



(From Left to Right) Mayor Terry Lake presents Ride-Share draw prize to Tom Freeman pictured here with his Ride-Share partners Crystal Chenier and Malcolm Makavey.



# GETTING THERE GREEN

A PACIFIC LEADER IN SUSTAINABILITY

B.C. MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION

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# Bike to Work<sup>™</sup>

## June 2nd June 8th

### Getting there Green: Tips for a Safe Bike Ride

Submitted by Patti Sandham, Avalanche Systems Technician

**Getting there Green** is more and more on our minds these days and it encourages us to get involved. Bike to Work week is a great place to get there green whether you're an avid biker or want to get started in the activity. Victoria's event is June 2nd to June 8th and we are lucky enough to have a trail network called the Galloping Goose. The Goose is a shared trail with walkers, runners, cyclists and roller bladders so it is important to share respectfully with all users. Here are some tips for sharing and safety. If you don't have a goose in your area we hope these tips will help you where ever you might be out biking. Watch for Bike to Work week in your area!

- The Galloping Goose is a multi use trail and is intended to be shared so all can enjoy it. Please be respectful of other users.
- Always wear reflective clothing and use head and tail lights in low lighting conditions or darkness. Pedestrians please take action to be seen as well!
- Keep right except to pass, pass only when it is safe to do so. Don't forget to do shoulder checks prior to passing.
- Use of headphones is a bad idea as you need to be aware of your surroundings you want to hear approaching traffic and other cyclists. You will always lose a battle with a vehicle. Checking with the Traffic Division of the Saanich Police if you were in an accident and you had headphones on you could be charged with "Undue Care and Attention"
- Share the path, don't impede others especially at peak times.
- If you need to stop – pull off the pathway.
- Use caution when crossing roads.
- Yield to pedestrians and horses. Use your bell or voice to pass. It is especially important to use your voice when approaching a horse from behind. A frightened horse can jump unexpectedly.

#### Regularly inspect your bike

It is best to take it to the mechanic on a regular basis but you should always keep an eye on your:

- Tire pressure - low tire pressure makes for more rolling resistance (More WORK!);
- Brakes – They should be grip securely;

- Chain – It should be clean and well oiled;

- For loose parts – Quick release on seat, wheels, fenders lined up, panniers buckles and ties secured, cables should be clean and not frayed.

Check out the website at:  
<http://www.biketowork.ca>



Mike Boissonneault and Niko Weis on the Galloping Goose in Victoria.

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# Is Asphalt Going Green?

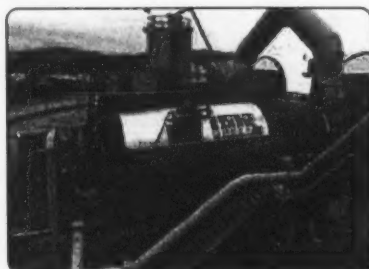
Submitted By Jesse Morwood, WKD Program Manager

## Warm Mix Asphalt – What is it?

Warm mix asphalt (WMA) may be a technology to help MOT along the road of environmental stewardship by saving energy and reducing greenhouse gases during asphalt production. WMA is a process that utilizes additives during production to decrease the amount of heat that is needed to produce and place the final product. The reduced temperatures needed to produce the asphalt can be significant – in fact, 16°C to 55°C (30° – 100°F) less! WMA was first introduced in Europe in 1997 in response to a call for energy reduction in the E.U. The technology was brought to North America in 2002 and has been gaining momentum here ever since.

## The Benefits of Warm Mix Asphalt

There are various environmental benefits of WMA over traditional hot mix asphalt (HMA). The reduced energy consumption from production is significant as are the fewer emissions and fumes produced during the manufacturing process. However, there are other tangible benefits of WMA. As the additives allow for lower temperatures during placement, the contractor has more time to work with the product after it leaves the plant. Furthermore, this process may allow for an extension of the paving season in the colder months. Lastly, working conditions for paving crews are improved because of the not-so-blistering temperatures during the paving process.



Columbia Bitulithic's asphalt plant in Vancouver, BC.

## Warm Mix Asphalt and MoT

If WMA is so great, why isn't MoT using it yet? This is a new technology and is still in the early stages of development. Specifically, the long term durability and it's workability in relation to HMA have not yet been fully demonstrated.

Another pressing question is 'can warm-mix pavement be opened to traffic quickly after construction?' As Mike Oliver, Chief Geotechnical, Material and Pavement Engineer for MOT explains, "MOT is observing local agencies that are experimenting with WMA and is waiting for their successes before committing to this new technology". In fact, MOT has been monitoring demonstration projects in Saanich and has a professional partnership with UBC to determine the long term benefits and viability of WMA. With the technology

still evolving and 7 existing WMA products to choose from, only time will tell which products perform the best and result in the smallest environmental footprint.

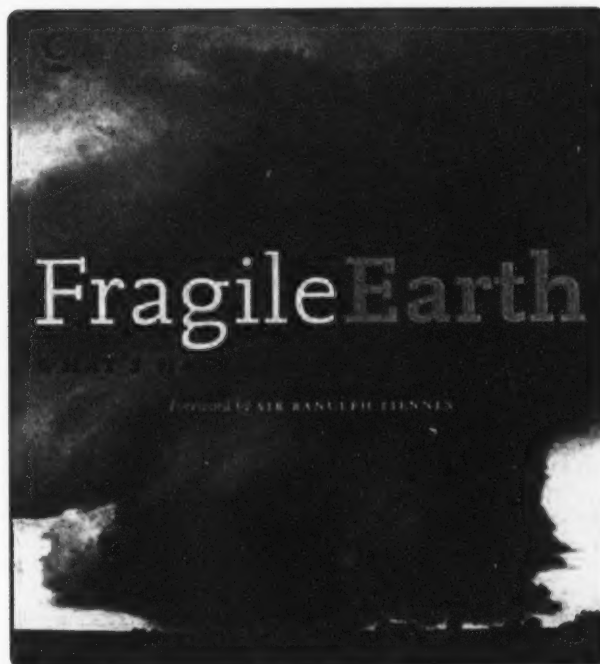
## Sources:

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Dave Newcomb, P.E., Ph.D.
2. [www.warmmixasphalt.com](http://www.warmmixasphalt.com)  
The Warm Mix Asphalt Technical Working Group
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U.S. Department of Transportation

## A picture is worth a thousand words: Climate Action Plan recommends...

**Fragile Earth: Views of a Changing World**  
By: Collins w/contributors

Natural disasters, climate change, exploitation of the world's resources, and human development are changing our planet. "Fragile Earth" brings this together with 150 stunning images from the air, land and space. ♦



# Community Events

## MS Super Cities Walk

Submitted by Don Allenby, Commercial Transport Inspector



Don and Kathy Allenby.

**Don Allenby, Commercial Transport Inspector and wife Kathy participated in the MS SuperCities Walk in Kamloops.** Kathy was diagnosed with MS in 1999. Every year they participate in the walk with a group called the 'Spirit Walkers'. With the help of family, friends and many MoT staff Don and Kathy were able to raise \$1260 to date with many more pledges still coming in. The 'Spirit Walkers' combined total was over \$3900

and still counting! The Kamloops area has collected over \$68,000. The money goes to MS research and to support local MS programs. Don and Kathy send a big thank you to all those that were able to support MS and participate in the walk.

## Heart and Stroke Big Bike makes it Way to the South Coast Region

Submitted By Lorna Leslie, Special Events and Permits Coordinator

**Once again, South Coast Region Ministry of Transportation staff has made us proud by participating in, and raising funds for, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC & Yukon. "Highway Coneheads" have been having fun riding the 30 person Big Bike for 8 years. This year we raised \$3,342.00 at the event! The day turned out to be gloriously sunny with the trees all in bloom and the incredibly gorgeous gardens of New Westminster on display. We rocked and bopped to tunes intended to motivate us up the hill (small, but still upwards!) and over the speed humps. We had Pat Thomas's Mom come out to see us off and decided to participate in the ride... she is 93 years old! We didn't make her pedal, but I am sure, if we had let her, she would have!**



Riders: Lorna Leslie; Jeff Moore; Lyn Marshall; Nathan VandenDungen; Shaun Prodanuk; Pat Harkness; Roanna Cruz; Perry Dennis; John Bodnarchuk; Debbie Derkson; Louise Barrand; Pat Thomas; Ken Lukawesky; Brian Atkins; Patrick Livolsi; Bill Crichton; Jackie Chambers, Loretta Carlson. Pat's Mom and sister rounded out the bike and lent some extra pedal power.

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# MoT Vancouver Sun Run Teams tear up 10k route

On Sunday April 20, 2008 over 59,000 people set out in the frigid cold to tackle the 10k route around the City of Vancouver. Two teams from MoT were represented at this massive event.



## Submitted by Properties and Business Management Branch

### Team Executive

Team Executive made up of Peter Milburn, Tracy Cooper, Kirsten Pedersen, Dave Duncan, Greg Gilks, Sandy Carroll, Fraser Randall, Deborah Miller and team doctor Alan Cook, each crossed the finish line in under one hour! Overall the team came in 13th out of 45 government teams – with a combined time of 8h 31m 40s. Not bad considering the celebrations the night before!

## Submitted by Dan Mayberry, Community Relations Manager

### Gateway Team

The Pitt River Bridge-Mary Hill Interchange, Port Mann/Highway 1 and South Fraser Perimeter Road projects were well represented among the 59,000 participants in the 2008 Vancouver Sun Run. The team's range in finish times was exceeded only by the difference in training regimens, which varied from holistic to 'hooligan-istic'.

(left to right) Dave Duncan, Tracy Cooper, Greg Gilks, Deborah Miller, Alan Cook, Sandra Carroll, Kirsten Pedersen.



(left to right): Joyce Grant, Matthew Hunter, Liisa Suurkask, Nick Wright, Darren Dyckson, Kathleen Au, Anne Murphy, Scott Postma, Linda Takahashi and Richard Ananda.

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# Mr. Transit: Recognition of John Schnablegger and his work on developing the Provincial Transit Investment Plan

On April 9th 2008, Tracy Cooper, South Coast Regional Director, Regional Managers as well as the Administration Staff celebrated the achievements of John Schnablegger.

John Schnablegger is the Regional Manager of Programming, Partnerships and Planning in Burnaby, British Columbia. He has been involved with helping the province formulate the provincial transit plan. This is by far one of the most aggressive plans for transit expansion for the province and Canadian governments.

John's previous work in transit provided the foundation upon which the plan was built and his direction to the group was invaluable in terms of economic analysis, target setting, and rapid BC transit concepts.

John's experience and insight has provided the ministry and more specifically the region, with a unique view into the world of transit as well as ensuring our participation in its success.

Pictured left to right: John Schnablegger Regional Manager, Programming, Partnerships and Planning, South Coast Region and Tracy Cooper, Regional Director South Coast Region.



## A Winning Team: DriveBC takes home Premier's Award for Service Excellence

Submitted by Del Mecham Manager, Provincial Highway Conditions Centre

On March 10th 2008, DriveBC was the winner for the Premier's Award for Service Excellence. The success that DriveBC has experienced relies on the Ministry of Transportation's districts, road and bridge contractors, and the operators at the Provincial Highway Conditions Centre (PHCC) located in Burnaby, B.C. The PHCC operates 24 hours a day 365 days a year to ensure entries to DriveBC are inputted correctly to serve the public and all other stakeholders.

District personnel across the province monitor the accuracy of road conditions, incident information and planned events such as road work and special events. The information is then inputted onto DriveBC by ministry personnel who are our representatives in the field. The PHCC operators strive to maintain good working relationships with ministry personnel and road and bridge maintenance contractors throughout the province. The importance of providing the best service possible to internal and external stakeholders assists in coordinating route choices as incidents and road conditions affect the usability of provincial highways.

The PHCC not only monitors and works with the entries to DriveBC and its related links such as the Highway Cams and the inland ferry reports, but the PHCC also works with the ministry's Avalanche Branch, CVSE (Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement), the Radio and Electronics

Branch, and controls the changeable message signs located in various parts of the province. Such work cannot be accomplished without the invaluable input that each of our ministry staff

provides along with their maintenance contractor colleagues. The PHCC would like to thank all of you for this your contribution and efforts. ♦



Ron Gellner, a PHCC Operator monitors the DriveBC website. The PHCC located in Burnaby, B.C. operates 24 hours a day 365 days a year.

*continues on the next page...*

# Kev and Bev at Transit Plan Celebration

Submitted by Nancy McLeod, Road Runner Editor

**Transportation Minister Kevin Falcon and Graphic Artist Beverly van Druten-Blais** pause for a photo at the Hotel Grand Pacific, in Victoria.

Beverly was at a Feb. 11th luncheon to honour the team that had worked so hard on the Provincial Transit Plan. Beverly had been involved with the design of the publication. Everyone was uncertain whether Minister Falcon would be able to make the event. He was away surveying the major avalanche control work underway on the Coquihalla, and it was possible that winter weather would interfere with his commitment in Victoria.

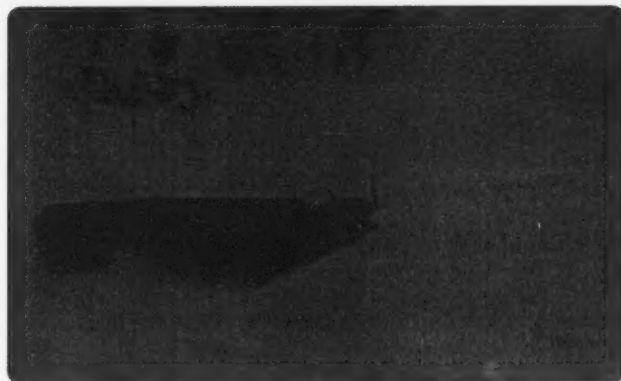
Lunch was finished. Then, in walked Minister Falcon, fresh from his work in the mountains, still in his outdoor gear and carrying his avalanche kit. Beverly, a big fan of the minister's asked to have a photo taken with him. Kevin Falcon cheerily went along with Beverly's request.



Minister Kevin Falcon, fresh from viewing avalanche work, with Graphic Design Specialist Beverly van Druten-Blais.



**Winter's Day:** The Peace River, from the Halfway River Rest Area, on a beautiful winter's day. Photo by Sacha Antifaeff, Area Manager.



**Truck Stop:** The March contest winner – a truck is stuck in the Pine Pass avalanche. Photo by Allan Edgar, Area Manager.

## "PIC" The Peace

Submitted by Candace Unruh, District Clerk

**As an Area Manager of Roads in the Peace District,** Allan Edgar spends most of his time out in the field. Frequently he has the opportunity to catch Mother Nature, in all her glory, on film. Most of the Peace District staff like to take the occasional picture while they are out in the field. So Allan came up with a fun way to give them a chance to share their pictures with others which included receiving a small prize for incentive. He created a monthly photo contest called "PIC" The Peace, where Ministry of Transportation employees can submit their pictures taken in the Peace area, and then vote for the winning picture on a monthly basis.

So far, the competition has been a success. Peace District staff are having a great time entering and viewing the pictures. More excitingly, a photo was used in the annual Regional Transportation Advisory Committee report for Minister Kevin Falcon.

The winning photos are on display at the Ministry of Transportation's Peace District main office in Fort St. John for customers and staff to enjoy the Peace in all its glory! ♦

# MoT Who's Who



**Brian L. Atkins,**  
District Operations  
Manager,

I have been in the Lower Mainland District now for 2 years after more than 25 years with field services and major projects. The best analogy I can draw for the district is to say that we are like the stay at home mom for MOT. There is little glory and little budget, but when something needs to be cleaned up or smoothed over there we are, ready and willing. The people here at the district are a different breed. The same problems sometimes come in day after day and they continue to respond with the same sincerity. The District staff really does keep things together. The District is not for the weak at heart and I can truly say there is no place I would rather be.



**Catherine Littlewood**  
Auxillary Clerk  
West Kootenay  
District

I started my term as an auxiliary clerk at the West Kootenay District Office on December 3, 2007. From the day I walked into the office I have been welcomed, challenged, trusted and supported. I have found it very easy to fit in with this friendly, hard-working and above all, professional group of people.

The atmosphere at the West Kootenay District Office and the Ministry of Transportation as a whole has been one in which the possibility of pursuing diverse career paths is front and centre. In this setting I have been inspired to take on unfamiliar responsibilities without hesitation and perform at my highest level. Having been actively encouraged to pursue training and permanent employment opportunities, I have consistently felt that I am a member of the team, not "just an auxiliary". I'm keeping a close eye on upcoming postings and hoping to obtain a permanent position in the not-too-distant future.



**Michelle Ihas**  
A/Assistant District  
Development  
Technician  
West Kootenay  
District

I've been with government for over ten years and have held various clerical positions between Forests and now Transportation. The thought of being in any position other than administration hadn't occurred to me until our District Manager planted the idea of me learning Development Approvals.

Long story short, I expressed an interest with my supervisor at my next EPDP and now have been acting as a technician for six months. Although challenging, this opportunity has been extremely rewarding. I can't thank the managers and staff at West Kootenay District enough for allowing me to pursue other avenues of my career. I feel very fortunate to be part of this amazing group of people. ♦

## Through the eyes of a MoT Summer Student

Submitted by Rennae Sarver, Summer Student, Programming

**My first week at MoT was like no other job I have ever experienced.** Three days ago I began working here in the Planning department for the Highways. As per usual I was given the "orientation" papers to fill out, had the quick tour sans the introductions, found a space to work in and gained access to a computer. Today after the 2nd annual Fun Day, I think the introductions have been completed. Although I have probably met most people in the building, I may have to ask them what costume they wore during Fun Day to put it all together. As the overall theme was Carnival, there were many clowns, so this may pose a problem.

The day started "At the Races" betting on your favourite horse, and from there the Carnival games began where you travelled to all areas of the building playing your favourite Carnival games such as: Get your Goat, Shuffle Board, Golf, and Top Gun just to name a few. The games were well thought out, and surprisingly, pretty difficult.

Lunch was provided and this was a great time to mingle with other teams and get to know them. After lunch we had "The Amazing Race". This game could rival the reality show, where the clues kept you constantly running between all the floors. Overall the energy, the laughter, and the camaraderie of all the employees were incredible to see as well as be a part of. I can not think of a better time to begin working for an organization than just before an event like the one I just experienced. ♦



Rennae Sarver and team take part in the many games provided at Karnloos fun day!



# On the road again

MoT Employees On The Move

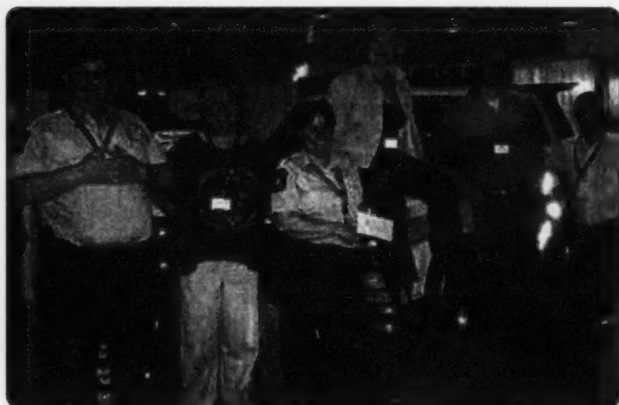
## Success at the Tradeshow: Northern Region Connects with the Industry

Submitted By Lyn Ashcroft, Provincial Permit Clerk

The Peace District put a booth together for the Dawson Creek and Fort Nelson tradeshows. This initiative gave us the opportunity to reconnect with the industry and inform the general public of several programs that are available as well as our many current employment opportunities. The Drive BC brochures were well received and the chance to meet some of our staff was great both for us and the industry. It was such a success that plans are in the works for the tradeshows in Chetwynd and Fort St John.



Dawson Creek Tradeshow held on April 25, 2008 (left to right) Derek Drummond District CVSA Manager and Lyn Ashcroft Provincial Permit Clerk. Not pictured but equally important to the success of the weekend were Dianne Young, Hank Glover, Peter Friesen, Wade Johannsen, Brian Taylor, Dawn Braithwaite and Sasha Antifaeff.



Fort Nelson Tradeshow held on the May 2, 2008 (left to right) Hank Glover Supervisor Fort St John Scale, Jackie Allen Ft Nelson's Weight Scale Administrator, Doreen McAllister, Supervisor Ft Nelson Scale, Lyn Ashcroft Provincial Permit Centre Clerk, Ken Nash Acting Area Manager North Peace and Richard Prill District Operations Manager South Peace.

## A Rainbow hovers over the Queen Charlottes

Submitted By Patricia Wong,  
Regional Operations Technician

Patricia Wong, Regional Operations Technician of the South Coast Region was recently on the Queen Charlottes for MoT work. She had been visiting different parts of B.C. to conduct quality audits of the road and bridge maintenance contractors.



*continues on the next page...*

# Cariboo MoT Employees Journey to the US Midwest

Submitted by Ed Marshall



Ed tests out the FireKnight Helmet.

The trip was hosted by a group called The Fire Within. They specialize in the production of professional calendars for volunteer fire departments to use as fund raisers. This was their first year in BC with this program. There were 12 departments from all over the province that participated. Of those 12 departments, 10 Mile Lake sold the most calendars in the province. No small feat for this little department! The 150 Mile House department won their two places on the trip through a random drawing of all of the other departments.

After a gruelling 7 hours on 2 airplanes with a connection in Houston, TX, we arrived in Pittsburgh, PA. By the way, if you ever need to make connections in Houston, make sure you have at least 45 minutes between arrival and departure. They seem to pride themselves in making passengers see as much of their airport as possible and you end up walking about a kilometre to get from terminal to terminal.

We were greeted at our Pittsburgh hotel by a representative from one of our sponsoring companies, MSA (Mine Safety Appliances). He made sure that we all knew where our rooms were and invited us to attend their evening event. They provided us with what I would consider a typical west coast buffet. Aside from the salads and gourmet vegetables, the main course was baked salmon and roast beef. There was also an endless supply of refreshments to relieve us from the travel stress. After dinner we were briefed about the company's history and prepared for the next day activities.

The next morning we were greeted with a buffet breakfast and told to be ready to board the bus by 8am. And what a ride it was! The sign on the front said 'PARTY RIDE' and that was literally what it meant. All the seating faced the centre and there was an onboard entertainment system that included a floor to ceiling pole in the middle of the bus.

The tour consisted of 3 MSA plants. We saw how they designed, developed, tested, and manufactured most of their products. While they make many tools for mining and the fire industry, one of the more interesting stops was where they manufacture the

Recently Cariboo District employee Danny Keeler and I, who are volunteer firefighters, won a trip to the US Midwest where we attended the largest fire department conference in the world and toured several manufacturing plants. I am a CVSE Portable Scale Inspector in Williams Lake as well as the Deputy Chief of 150 Mile House Volunteer Fire Department (VFD). Danny Keeler, Bridge Manager in Quesnel is a firefighter with the 10 Mile Lake VFD. Both of us were specially selected by our respective fire departments to go on this trip to the US. Accompanying us was my better half, Tammy Stasiuk who is also a firefighter and Danny's fire department Chief, Norm Livingstone. The trip originated in Calgary before heading to Pittsburgh, PA. In Calgary we joined up with 24 other firefighters from Alberta.

Kevlar bullet-proof helmets for the US and Canadian armed forces. One area that impressed me the most was how they develop plastic prototypes of products. They have a lab that will construct a 3D sample of anything smaller than 2' x 2' x 2' from a computer drafted design. There was also a museum which showed the various products that have been made over the years. I test fitted a European style helmet called a Fire Knight. Very light and comfortable compared to the North American style.

We arrived at our Dayton hotel about 1 hour behind schedule. Our sponsors for the night, Total Fire group were anxiously awaiting our arrival. They had an entire section of a large Texas style steak house booked for us. One thing I can tell you about this entire trip, nobody wants you to be 'unrefreshed' beverage wise. We were told to order anything we wanted off of the menu.

After breakfast in the morning, we boarded another bus to tour another factory. This particular factory develops and manufactures turnout gear, helmets and gloves. It is a relatively small operation that is owned and run by a local firefighter and his wife. They employ about 300 people that proudly make protection for firefighters. They have a very efficient factory that will guarantee custom made gear in 2 weeks. Their testing lab is one of two in North America that conducts tests to the international standards. After they fed us lunch, we were back on the bus where we headed for Indianapolis, Indiana. To tour the city on our own.

The next morning was the opening ceremonies for the Fire Department Instructor's Conference. It was very impressive and moving. There were approximately 15,000 firefighters. Seeing as the format of the conference was to train, there were several classes throughout the complex. I should point out that this complex is four city blocks square. One corner has a stadium the size of BC Place (with a similar roof) and the rest is over triple the size of that.

*On the road again continues on the next page...*

## Cariboo MoT Employees Journey to the US Midwest *continued from page 28*

The remainder of the week was spent attending classes and the trade show during the day and manufacturer's dinners in the evening. We met firefighters from all over the world. The official attendance for the conference was over 28,750.

Danny, an avid scuba diver and outdoorsman, decided to take the opportunity to try and convince his Chief they needed a fire boat and a bush buggy. The show was an opportunity for me to check out the construction quality from several apparatus manufacturers. Our department is acquiring a new truck this year and this gave me the insight I needed.

The trip was one that none of us will soon forget. For what we saw, what we did, who we met, what we learned, the dining, and the flights we endured. Now I'm ready to go back again next year.

For more information on The Fire Within, visit the website at: <http://www.thefirewithin.ca> ♦



Danny, an avid sportsman tests out the bush buggy.



The WR Bennett Bridge officially opened on May 25th, 2008. Look for an article in the next edition of the exciting opening ceremonies event.

**Submit your stories and photos:**

If you want to submit stories and photos send your word files and photos to: [RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca](mailto:RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca)



You never know what you'll see.

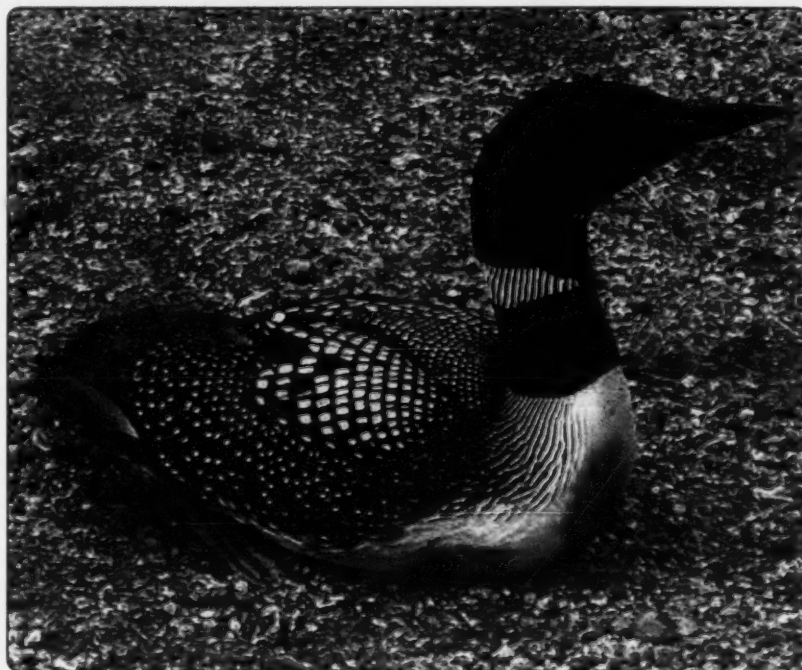
## Catch & Release

Submitted by Doug Tuck, Assistant Avalanche Technician

Those of us who travel the less populated highways of our province are accustomed to wildlife sightings. But a loon sitting on the gravel shoulder of the roadway? Now that is uncommon. Especially when accompanied by that call we associate with northern lakes. If you've ever seen one of these birds taking off you know they need about a hundred meters of open water. There was no way this bird was getting airborne from the side of a mountain roadway.

With the help of a passing motorist we corralled it into a soft tarp I carry for emergency shelter. Gently but firmly we wrapped the loon in the tarp to transport it back to its natural environment. As we approached the shore line on Duffey Lake with the loon under my arm it began to struggle. I took it as a sign that it had some strength left. I laid it on the snow, loosened the tarp and away it went. Both back legs were working. The loon went into and under the water immediately it emerged about 10 meters out, turned, looked at me and softly called "Hoo Kwuk". Could it have been a thank you in loon language or was it an apology for the smelly stuff it deposited on my tarp? It then stretched out both wings and flapped. Both wings appeared ok.

A few days later, I checked to see if it was still there, but it was gone. Hopefully it's haunting calls will echo off the shoreline of some northern lake again.



Photos by Scott Aitken.

## Geese take a Stroll on a Sunny Tuesday Morning

Submitted by Larry Griffith, Area Manager Saanich



April 29th at 10:30 am a pair of Geese with 4 goslings went for a stroll onto the TransCanada Highway just north of Victoria. They wandered back and forth across the two south bound lanes causing motorists to come to a stop blocking both lanes. It ended well with the people catching the goslings and putting them over the roadside barrier out of harms way.

*continues on the next page...*



**You never know what you'll see!** *continued from page 30*

## Oops...

Submitted by Nick Leatham, Commercial Transport Inspector



This is from a recent trip my wife and I took to Edmonton. Oops, how do you explain this one to the boss?

## Region Celebrates Staff

Submitted by Valerie Fabick



The May 6, 2008 Region 1 Staff Appreciation BBQ was a great success. The event was a thank you from the Regional Management team for the great South Coast Region response on the Employee Engagement Survey. (From left to right) Adrienne Chow, Patricia Wong, Henry Lew, Nash Jamal, Claire Lotter, Tracy Cooper, Kenedee Ludwar, Patrick Livolsi and Valerie Fabick. ♦

# Onto new vistas

## MoT Employee Retirements

### Cool, Calm and .....Gone!

Phone Executive Director, Sandra Carroll's office and your call will usually be answered by a lady with a cool, calm voice. But the days of the cool, calm voice are slowly counting down. About the same time as you read this issue of the Roadrunner the lady with the cool, calm voice will have headed out the door and you may even see her skipping along the sidewalk into retirement! It is with mixed feelings that the Properties and Business Management Branch say a very fond farewell to one of their own, Executive Administrative Assistant, Linda Sayers.

Linda has been with the Ministry of Transportation for (dare I say it) 25 years. Her time with MoT goes back to the days of carbon paper and huge type-writers. Along the way Linda made all the transformations required to keep up to date with new technology, but she still maintains some of her old-time habits. "I'm a pack-rat!" she freely admits, "Like many of us 50+ers, I take comfort in my paper copies!"

It's Linda's time to retire, and she is more than ready. Linda is looking forward to all the freedom and opportunities that retirement will allow her. Travel, dancing, time with her grandchildren, and all the fun that goes with retirement, these are just a few of the things on Linda's 'Freedom Agenda'.

Submitted by Josie Jones, Business Analyst

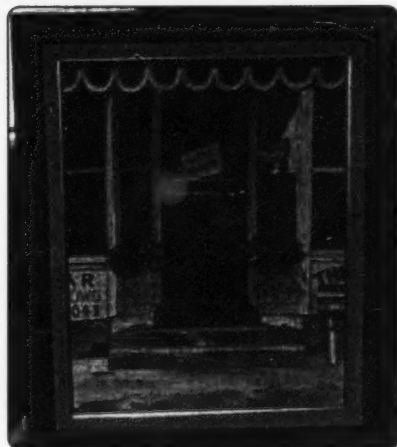


Linda Sayers and Sandra Carroll.

Way to go Linda, we will all miss her so much, but we are happy knowing Linda will be making the very best of her retirement. Here's to a Fabulous Lady!

### Gone Fishing: Peter Wightman inspired others

Submitted by Tracy Cooper, Regional Director



Peter has 'Gone Fishing' – Painting done by Peter's wife Margo.

**After more than 30 years of distinguished and dedicated service Peter Wightman, District Manager Transportation, has decided to retire from the Ministry.** Peter started his MoT career in Terrace as a bridge engineer and then quickly became District Highways Manager in the Central Island District on Vancouver Island; and never left. I recall as a young(ish) technician looking up to Peter as the archetype of what a District Manager should be; calm, rational, always in control, the superman sort of persona. Peter knows the island well. For the past two decades he has been either the Manager in Courtenay or Nanaimo or both at the same time! Over the past two years he has handled the complexities of Vancouver Island with great aplomb. Slides, washouts, windstorms!, nothing got to Peter. He just

handled them in his usual effective, efficient way, inspiring confidence in all around him. In his last two years as District Manager he has led a team in transition, effectively transferring his vast knowledge and skills to those around him.

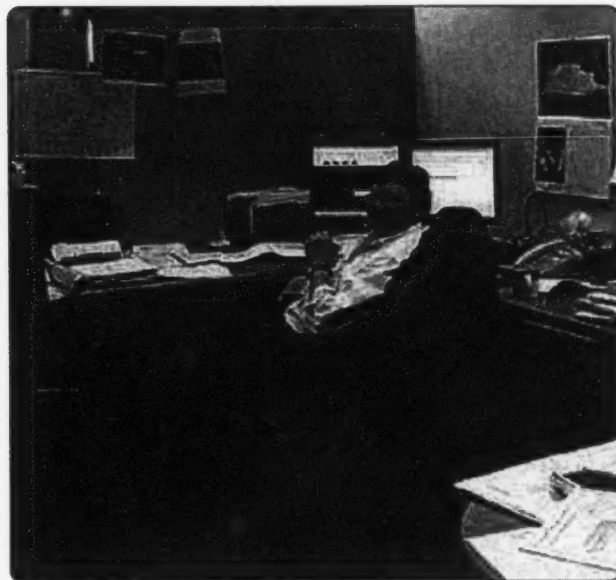
Staff have told me that they will miss Peter's good humour and generous nature. We wish Peter every success as he begins one of life's new journeys. Happy fishing and sailing Peter, but don't be surprised if you get a call from a certain Regional Director asking for your advice.

My most sincere wishes for a happy retirement and for my most profound appreciation for 30 plus years of dedicated public service. I can think of no higher calling than that.

*continues on the next page...*

## Rick Wiese Eases into Retirement

Submitted by Peter Davies, Consulting Services Survey Manager



Rick is already 'easing back' into retirement.

**Rick Wiese is retiring after 30 years of service with the Ministry of Transportation. His last day at work will be June 26, 2008.**

Rick started with the Ministry in 1978 in the Highway Design office in Prince George, shortly after his graduation from college. In 1981 he was the successful applicant for a job on the mobile survey crew based in Terrace. He gained much experience through the years and now is a Senior Highway Designer in the Terrace Office.

Rick's Ministry career was all in the Highway Engineering in the Northern Region. He started as a draftsman in Prince George and soon gained experience as a surveyor and designer. Rick adapted well to the changing technology that has so greatly affected engineering services. He started manually drafting highway designs and now is proficient at computer based survey and design, such as GPS, AutoCAD, CAICE and many others. In the last decade he transitioned from field survey crew work to work almost entirely as a designer.

Rick and his valuable contribution to the Ministry and to the highway system in the north will be greatly missed. Please feel free to give Rick a call and reminisce a little before he goes.

Rick's plans for retirement aren't definite at this time, but a few well earned months off work are the first priority.

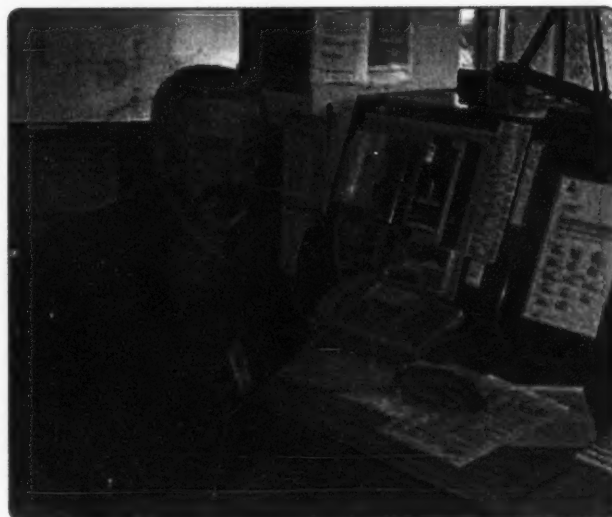
## Stan Kravetz Says Goodbye to Government but not to Highways

Submitted by Stan Kravetz, Communications Operator

After 20 years as a communications operator in the Provincial Highway Conditions Centre in Burnaby, I embark upon a new journey. I finished my last shift in the PHCC at 6:45 am on May 6, 2008.

I've accepted a full time position as a communications operator with Mainroad Howe Sound Contracting and start at Cassiar Tunnel May 10th. My area of responsibility is Highway 1 from the 1st Avenue overpass, Cassiar Tunnel, Ironworkers Memorial 2nd Narrows Crossing, through to Capilano Road (border between North Vancouver and West Vancouver). Cassiar Tunnel also fields calls for Emil Anderson Maintenance - Contract Area 7 - Fraser Valley, including Highway 1 to Boston Bar, Highway 3 to Sunday Summit, Highway 5 to the Portia Interchange, Highway 7 (Mission to Hope), and Highway 11 (Mission to the USA) border.

A heartfelt thanks to my colleagues at the PHCC and all other Ministry staff that I provided service to and came in contact with during my tenure. ♦



Stan Kravetz.

*continues on the next page...*

## Mr. Sunshine Shines in New Role

Submitted by Patrick Livolsi, Regional Manager Engineering



Mr. Sunshine, Allan Galambos.

**Allan Galambos has worked for the Ministry of Transportation since 1993** has joined Emergency Management BC and taken on the role of Critical Infrastructure Coordinator. Allan joined the Ministry of Transportation as a bridge inspector and in 1996 became the Manager, Bridge and Structural Engineering in South Coast Region. He has been actively involved in the Joint Emergency Liaison Committee working on initiatives such as the Disaster Response Routes and most recently on Critical Infrastructure. The position at the EMBC recently became available and Allan was offered the opportunity to continue working on the Critical Infrastructure initiative on a full time basis.

Allan's dedication to the region and his depth of experience will be missed by the regional staff. He was instrumental in getting our rapid bridge response program in place and for keeping the region's structures in top shape. I know that as much as we will miss Allan, he will also miss the fun of being Mr. Sunshine in the region!

Allan's long term goal is to move to the Victoria Area as part of his retirement plans over the coming years. Congratulations on your new role Allan! ♦



Ministry of  
Transportation

## Staff Roundup

**Welcome Heather Krawchuk** to the Engineering Branch at Headquarters. Heather moved to Victoria from Manitoba where she completed the Administrative Assistant Diploma program. Most recently, she worked with Island Asphalt Company as an Administrative Assistant and will continue working for MoT in an administrative capacity.

Please join Engineering Branch in welcoming Heather to the Ministry of Transportation!

**Pam Merkley** will be joining Human Resources Branch, Headquarters to fill the role of Manager, Human Resource Planning and Development. Pam was originally the successful applicant on a competition held by the Natural Resource Sector to work on specific sector HR initiatives. While supporting six different ministries and agencies, she resided in our office. Pam laterally transferred on April 1.

**Laidlaw Inspection Station** in Hope B.C. recently held a good-bye lunch for several staff members. Commercial Transport Inspector, **Richard Clark** is leaving for work outside Government. **Mark Carey** and **Michelle Slater** are

leaving on a Parental leave. **Brad Kurucz** and **Peter Thompson** are leaving for an Area Vehicle Inspector position with CVSE. **Kevin Cook**, **Les Unrau** and **Ron McCormack** are also heading to CVSE as Carrier Safety Inspectors. Best of luck everyone!



(Front row) Richard Clark, Mark Carey, Michelle Slater (Back row) Brad Kurucz, Peter Thompson, Kevin Cook, Les Unrau, Ron McCormack.

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## Okanagan Shuswap

Submitted by Lynda Lochhead, District Development Technician

Staff of the Okanagan Shuswap District held a potluck luncheon on April 29th to extend our best wishes to two of our staff moving onto new and exciting adventures and challenges. Friday, May 2nd is Tammy Kuffner's last day of work before she heads off on maternity leave. Tammy is the Community Relations Representative for the William R. Bennett Bridge Project. We are all very excited about the pending little arrival but Tammy seems to be having trouble seeing her shoes let alone getting them on! Staff, in their kind and thoughtful manner, presented her with several pairs of flip-flop sandals to help her through the next little while. Murray Tekano, District Manager, Transportation, presented Tammy with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Jay Sutton of Westmar Consulting and Jon Buckle of JCL Consulting also presented gifts for Tammy and baby. Good luck Tammy and husband Steve, happy parenting!



Murray Tekano, District Manager gives Tammy a beautiful bouquet of flowers.



Ian makes a fashion statement with his new wardrobe!

In other news, Ian Pilkington was the successful applicant for the Manager, Project Deliver, Climate Action Program position in Victoria and has been working in Victoria for the past few months. In Kelowna, Ian was Project Manager, Okanagan Corridor. Ian and his wife Kim have sold their house in Kelowna and found a 1908 heritage home in Victoria on a corner lot, complete with 10 foot high ceilings, bay windows and hardwood floors across the street from Banfield Park and will be moving in sometime in mid-May. We heard a rumour that Ian's new position requires that he wear a tie more often than he is used to so, District staff decided to help him with this problem - he is now the proud owner of about a half dozen ties ranging from happy faces to pink silk! Good luck with the new job, we will miss you. Expect overnight guests from now on!

*continues on the next page...*

## Thompson Nicola District Welcomes New Staff

Submitted by Joanne Harder, District Clerk

The Thompson Nicola District, Southern Interior Region, is very pleased to announce that Michelle Konowalchuk has won the position of District Services Manager. Michelle's background is primarily dealing with finances, as she worked for Ministry of Forests in Kamloops Regional office for 3 years as the Performance & Financial Supervisor. She spent 13 years with High Valley Youth Custody Centre in Logan Lake (as staff, not an inmate), moving from her initial position of Office Assistant to Business Manager. Michelle surprised all of us when we met one of her grand-daughters. This family oriented lady looks much too young to have 3 children and 2 grand-daughters (and she is!). Michelle enjoys travelling and as her husband competes at a provincial level for Mine Rescue, she tags along for the fun part, wherever that may be. We've noticed she really enjoys any after hours get-togethers and we appreciate her sense of humour, initiative and, oh, yes, all those great organizing and delegating skills. We are so happy to welcome you to the District, Michelle.



Michelle Konowalchuk.

## Who's moved into the policy branch?

Submitted by Joanne Harder, District Clerk

**Gateway's loss is policy's gain.** Rachael Morgan moved to Victoria from Vancouver, after being tempted by the lure of air and marine policy. Rachael graduated from Simon Fraser University with a degree in Geography, and successfully completed the Technician Entry Level Program. After a couple of years at the Gateway Office, headquarters was beckoning...

Jarrett Holst joined the team as the new branch administrative assistant. We were lucky to steal Jarrett from the private sector. After spending two years selling insurance, Jarrett decided to make a career move into the provincial government. We're glad he did. Welcome, Jarrett!

After completing a temporary assignment in the policy branch, Sandy Evans secured

the position of manager of regulatory policy. Over the past 28 years, Sandy worked in various ministry policy and legislation units, including the Premier's Office where she managed the government's legislative program. Sandy is pleased to now call Transportation 'home'.

Although she will only be here for four months, Emily Goodbrand is already elbow-deep analyzing transportation provisions for compliance with the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement with Alberta. Emily comes to us from the University of Victoria as a Law Co-op Student. This co-op term will give Emily a taste of public service life and, hopefully, encourage her to pursue a career with the provincial government in the near future. ♦



(left to right) Rachael Morgan, Sandy Evans, Kirsten Pedersen, Jarrett Holst, and Emily Goodbrand.